



# The Sun

50¢

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## Man sought for attempted murder

By Brenda Bunting  
Editor

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Alexander "Kiki" Perkins, 20, is being sought by police after he allegedly returned to the site of an accident he was involved in Sunday evening at 512 S.W. Avenue E. Police say Perkins was not at fault for the minor collision, but he does not have a current license and registration for his green Chevrolet Caprice.

Witnesses said Perkins left the area and came back about five minutes after the accident and shot into the crowd, hitting three people. Injured were Jean Pierre, 26, who was shot



Alexander Perkins

in the buttocks, and Uless Ware Jr. and Reginald Miller, who were hit in the leg area.

When found, police say Perkins will be charged with six counts of attempted murder. Anyone who knows the whereabouts of Perkins is asked to call the Belle Glade Police Department at 396-7251.

## Fire-fighters ask Pahokee commission to consider raises

By Tracy Whirls  
Associate Editor

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the Lt. said, but because there are fewer firefighters, each individual fire fighter has more responsibility than he would at a larger department where the responsibilities would be divided among a larger group.

Lt. LeParde noted Pahokee fire fighters do much more than fight fires.

"The vast percentage of our calls are medical calls—responding to slips and falls, boating accidents, vehicle accidents, checking blood pressures, attending to the medical needs of anyone who walks in," the lieutenant said, adding that citizens may not be aware of everything the department does because, "not everything we do, we do with lights and sirens on."

The department does not serve the city of Pahokee alone, the lieutenant said. It also provides service in the unincorporated areas of the county surrounding Pahokee, from approximately SR 80 on one side, to 20 mile Bend on the other. The department is

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THANKS GCL. Children in the 3 and 4 year old kindergarten classes at Lutheran Services Florida/PEPPI Head Start will benefit from five used computers donated to the school by Glades Correctional Institution. Shown is Barbara Green, Family Service Specialist and Carol Anderson, teacher, who picked up the computers on Tuesday.

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According to the probable cause affidavit by Pahokee PD Patrolman Raymond Walls, on Tuesday, July 11 at 9:39 p.m., he responded to a 911 call to the facility. The victim, a 17-year-old juvenile told the officer that at 5 p.m. while he was eating inside the cafeteria someone knocked over his food tray. He asked Mr. Brunson for another tray and was denied. The victim said Mr. Brunson apparently became angry when another staff member granted him another tray.

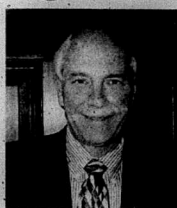
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another staff member and glanced at the report Mr. Brunson was preparing. The instructor told the victim to sit down, and when told that he had been called by another staff member, became upset and pushed the teen. The teen admitted raising up and the instructor grabbed him and called for staff to assist. When other staff arrived, the instructor told them the youth had struck him, which the boy and other inmates denied. The juvenile was restrained and received minor cuts to his left

hand and arm.

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## U.S. Sugar Corp. gets new CEO



Robert A. Dolson

United States Sugar Corporation, the nation's largest producer of cane sugar and largest producer of wholesale not-form-concentrate orange juice, announces the appointment of a new chief executive officer.

Effective July 18, Robert A. Dolson will be president and chief executive officer. Dolson, who is from St. Louis, Missouri, has been a member of the company's board of directors for the past six years.

In addition to being familiar with the company's operations, Dolson brings extensive business experience to the company. For 18 years he served as chairman and

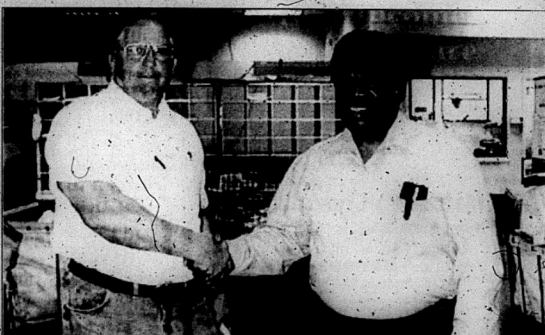
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William S. White, chairman of the board of directors for U.S. Sugar said, "With a change in leadership, there is an opportunity to bring in someone with a fresh, dynamic approach to the challenging issues facing the company. Dolson brings that fresh approach along with extensive business experience. Dolson's goal is to make U.S. Sugar a world class company, competitive on a global basis."

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As Dolson takes over, the American sugar industry is dealing with historically low sugar prices, with sugar processing facilities in some states being closed and many

See US Sugar/Page 3



Postal employee Wayne Miner (left) was honored for 35 years of service to the U.S. Postal Service by Postmaster Johnny Johnson. Mr. Johnson said "With your hard work and daily dedication you have made a difference."

**Story Times**  
The Belle Glade Public Library will offer Summer Story Times through July 29, for ages 3-12. Pre-registration is required. Please call 396-5457 for hours, times and more information.

**Summer Reading**  
Summer Reading is being held at the West Glades Senior Center. They want you to start in by next week. Group called "Readers" meets every Thursday morning 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information call 396-4908.

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### Lake Level

July 23  
11.67 ft. above  
sea level

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Glades Central names Odexter Freeman as  
the new head football coach

50¢

# The Sun

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Western Palm Beach County's Hometown Newspaper Since 1923

Volume 77/Number 28

## Sun Spots

### Free child's car seats for eligible parents

Belle Glade Police and Fire Rescue personnel, along with Glades General Hospital will be working with Palm Beach County Safe Kids Coalition on July 31 from noon until 3 p.m. at the fire department, exchanging car seats that have been involved in a motor vehicle collision, with new child care seats.

The program is made possible through an Emergency Medical Services Grant to the coalition because car seats of any type that are involved in a crash must be replaced.

For information on eligibility or to schedule an appointment for the installation, call Belle Glade Fire Rescue at 996-2032.

### Reception for new principal

A reception for the new principal at Glades Central Community High School will be held Tuesday, Aug. 1 at 6 p.m. in the school courtyard, located in front of the auditorium.

The new principal and the new administrators will be introduced to the community at this time.

### Workshops planned

Belle Glade City Commissioners will hold a workshop concerning the city's budget on Thursday, July 27 at 6:30 p.m.

The workshop will be held in Conference Room B. For more information, call 996-0100.

### Story times

The Belle Glade Branch Library will offer Summer Story Times through July 29, for ages 2-12. Pre-registration is required. Please call 996-3453 for dates, times and more information.

### Seniors invited

Senior participants are needed at the West County Senior Center. They would like to start or try to start a group called Relationship every Thursday, mid-day 11 a.m. till noon.

Everyone is welcome to participate in this event. For more information call 996-4808.

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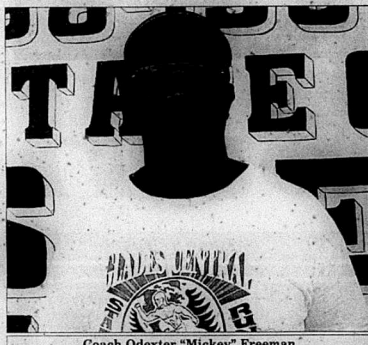
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Serving the cities of Belle Glade, Canal Point, Pahoakee and South Bay





Coach Odexter "Mickey" Freeman

## Freeman named head coach at Glades Central

By Tracy Whirls

Glades Central veteran assistant football coach Odexter "Mickey" Freeman was named the team's head football coach during a news conference at the school last Friday.

Coach Freeman, a Belle Glade native and 1969 graduate of Lake Shore High School has been with the program for the past 15 years.

Coach Freeman will succeed Coach Milton Watson who led the Raiders to two consecutive state championships in the past two years and left with a 6-year record of 73-7. The Raiders were 15-0 in 1999.

Coach Freeman was formerly the offensive coordinator under Coach Watson and coached the Raiders' wide receivers last season.

Asked which of the teams opponents he expects to be the toughest this season, the coach said, "All of them are going to be tough, we've lost so many guys," the new head coach said, noting that 20 Raiders players graduated in May. "We lost a couple of wide receivers," the

coach said. The back-ups are going to have to step up. Santonio Holmes is returning and he's a good prospect. We also have Antonio Hill and Joseph Chappell—we've got a couple of guys there and we'll find another." Quarterback Santonio Thomas, who led the Raiders to last year's championship is returning, Coach Freeman said.

The new coach said he doesn't expect to make too many changes this year, "but I'd like to be in our four-receiver set more than last year. It's a good way to move the ball up and down the field. We used that a lot last year when we were behind and it worked."

Coach Freeman, who played for Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Famer Willie Irvin at Lake Shore, was a wide receiver at Virginia Union and also played baseball.

The Raiders will begin practice Aug. 7. Their first game will be played at Miami Northwestern Aug. 26. The Raiders will meet Santaluces at home on Sept. 1.



Ronald McDonald visited the Belle Glade Branch Library on Saturday, July 22 and presented his own special brand of magic and fun. About 70 children and their parents attended the presentation. Ronald emphasized the importance of reading and reminded the children to sign up for the Summer Reading Program. Children who complete the program by reading 25 books receive a T-shirt. (Photo by Adrian "Big A" Vereen)



A transition ceremony was held Thursday, July 13, for the South Bay HeadStart Center. Fifty-six children received certificates at Tanner Park, preparing their transition to Kindergarten in the Palm Beach County Schools. The theme was "Head Start Stepping Out into the Millennium." Mrs. Arlene Camel, CDAI, was Mistress of Ceremony. The welcome was given by transitioning student LeAndre Fletcher. Mrs. Belinda McFadden, parent, gave the Invocation and the speaker was Ms. Gloria Williams, former Head Start Parent and Head Start Teacher, who emphasized the importance of parent involvement. Outstanding performances were displayed by the 3 and 4-year old classes. Certificates were issued to the students by the Honorable Mayor Clarence Anthony. Mrs. Camel, and parents, Mrs. Laverne Edwards and Mrs. Carol Palevoda and Center Manager Betty Caldwell addressed the group. (Photo by Adrian "Big A" Vereen)

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# Potassium deficiency can cause fatigue, cramps



Katrina Elkin  
Contributing Editor

This week a reader asked if I would do some research on potassium. The young woman collapsed and wound up in the emergency room. Blood tests indicated she was low on potassium.

I knew that potassium deficiency can cause fatigue and muscle cramps. I knew that bananas and baked potatoes (if you eat the skin) are good sources of the mineral. But that

was about all I knew about potassium so I did a little research on the Health Central website.

According to Health Central, the human body needs potassium for both electrical and cellular functions.

Food sources of potassium include: Fish such as salmon, cod, flounder, and sardines; vegetables including broccoli, peas, lima beans, tomatoes, potatoes (especially their skins), and leafy green vegetables such as spinach, lettuce and parsley contain potassium; and fruits such as citrus fruits, apples, bananas, and apricots (dried apricots contain more than fresh apricots).

According to the website,

potassium helps the body regulate the acid-base balance and the water balance in the blood and body tissues.

It is necessary for the building of muscle and for normal body growth.

According to Health Central, there is no recommended daily allowance for potassium although experts recommend approximately 2 to 2.5 grams per day. Most Americans get plenty of potassium naturally.

The average American diet provides 2 to 6 grams of potassium per day.

The website warns that potassium supplementation should be based on medical prescription and should never be taken without the approval of a

health care provider.

A deficiency of potassium (hypokalemia) can occur in people with chronic disease or as a result of the aging process, the website continues. The most common problems associated with reduced potassium levels are hypertension, congestive heart failure, cardiac arrhythmias, depression, and fatigue. A variety of factors can also cause the loss of potassium from the body, (including vomiting, diarrhea, and other gastrointestinal problems). Renal disease (such as acute renal failure) and diabetes, can also cause fluctuations in the levels of potassium. Many medications can cause depletion of potassium (such as diuretics,

cortisone, prolonged use of aspirin, and laxatives). The most common symptom of potassium depletion is fatigue; initial symptoms of potassium deficiency include slow reflexes, muscle weakness, and dry skin. A quick loss of potassium could lead to cardiac arrhythmias. Severe potassium deficiency symptoms include decreased heart rate, extreme muscle weakness, bone fragility and, if untreated, death. Health Central's website states. While you probably won't consume too much potassium from natural foods (unless you go to a banana and baked potato diet), it is possible to suffer from too much potassium.

Increased levels of potassium

are known as hyperkalemia. For this to occur, there are usually other causes, such as reduced renal (kidney) function, a breakdown of protein; or severe infection. If there is no underlying cause for increased potassium levels, the kidneys are able to handle a large amount of potassium, which prevents the blood levels from increasing.

If you think you may be low on potassium, your doctor can check it with a blood test. Potassium supplements in pill form are not recommended unless they have been prescribed by a doctor. Before making any change in your diet or exercise program, check with your physician.

## ER Chronicles: Not what vacation was all about



Arlen R. Stauffer, MD

The view was beautiful along the beach front sidewalk, unlike anything Robin could experience back home in Ohio. Her legs seemed a bit wobbly on the rented roller blades as she started down the sidewalk, but she pushed on.

She almost fell trying to round that first turn. Was this dangerous?

Doing fun things was what vacation was all about for a 45-year-old from Ohio.

"Whoa!"

The second turn got her. Robin's legs went one way, her

body went another way, and she was flying sideways toward the air.

"Whatcha got there?" Phil, an emergency nurse on duty today in the Ocean Hospital ER, noticed the grimace on Robin's face as the paramedics wheeled her toward an ER bed.

"She fell while roller-blading," the paramedic reported. "That right elbow is pretty deformed, but she looks OK otherwise."

Robin groaned as Phil helped her slide over onto the ER bed. She tried to cushion any movement of the right arm by cradling it in her left hand.

The roller blades clanked against the bed rails. Robin shot an unbelieving look down at the skates.

How could I be so stupid? she asked no one in particular.

Phil had an ice bag on the swollen elbow, and began a series of questions. He repeated all of Robin's vital signs. Satis-

fied that nothing besides the elbow was involved here, Phil delivered a report to the emergency physician.

"Hey, Doc. This woman in Bed 12 has an elbow injury from falling, either a fracture or a dislocation. She seems OK otherwise. I've ordered some X-rays."

Emergency physician Tammy Cortez nodded. She was still in the midst of stabilizing an elderly man with a heart attack, and could not attend to Robin right away. She trusted Phil's judgment.

"OK, Phil," Cortez said. "I'll be over there in a few."

Phil returned to Robin's side. "Do you need some pain medicine, Robin?"

"It's not too bad if I just hold it still," she retorted. Then, looking up at the ceiling, she added, "How could I do this?"

Phil patted her gently on the shoulder as an X-ray technician began rolling her stretcher

toward Radiology.

Cortez left the heart attack victim as Robin's bed was rolling back into Room 12 a few minutes later. She shook Robin's other hand as she introduced herself, then went over the story again.

"And then I was just flying...just flying," Robin concluded.

"Well, it looks like you've dislocated your elbow joint, Robin," Cortez said as she studied the X-ray pictures.

After some additional questions about her overall health, she returned her focus to Robin's arm.

"Can you feel this right here?" Cortez asked as she touched a tiny bruise against Robin's fingers one by one. "OK, now move the fingers this way."

Convinced that none of the nerves in Robin's elbow had been injured by the dislocation, Cortez began explaining what

was about to happen.

"After we sedate you joint the drugs, we should be able to pull this back into place, Robin."

Noticing an inquisitive frown on Robin's face, Cortez added, "Don't worry, you won't feel a thing."

By now, Phil had an IV line started in Robin's left arm. He had connected the heart monitor wires to Robin's chest, and placed a small oxygen tube under her nose.

"I have the Versed and the etomidate, Doc," Phil said as he pointed toward the drug bottles on the bedside cart.

"Let's get started," Cortez said. "Robin, you'll be back with us in a tiny minutes."

Robin closed her eyes. She just wished all of this was over. Why did she think she could roller blade again after all these years? What was she thinking? What a way to ruin a vacation.

Dislocations of the elbow joint are commonly seen in emergency departments. Of the large-joint dislocations, elbows rank third in frequency, behind "shoulders and kneecaps."

A dislocation of an elbow usually results from a fall onto an outstretched hand, and the bones of the forearm, the radius and ulna, usually dislocate to an area behind their normal position.

Such "posterior" dislocations result in an injury to a nerve or artery 10-20 percent of the time.

Reduction of the dislocation after adequate sedation can usually be accomplished in the emergency department.

Dr. Stauffer, an emergency physician in New Smyrna Beach, is a member of the Florida College of Emergency Physicians. [www.fcep.org](http://www.fcep.org)

## Glades teachers participate in "Ag in the Classroom"

Several teachers in the Glades participated in the Palm Beach Ag in the Classroom recently.

They included: Brenda Davis and

Rebecca Long, who teach in Belle Glade, Maryellen Dovaile, and Janell Leatherman, who both teach at Canal Point Elementary.

Ag instructor Deena Stokes trained over 90 teachers this year at the annual workshop.

It was reported to have been her

largest class ever.

The evaluations have been returned and they have been reported to be very positive.

### US Sugar/From Page 1

American sugar producers considering forfeiting sugar to the government. In this climate, Dolson indicated, "Massive and rapid change will be necessary to survive and prosper in the 21st century. The focus will be on developing busi-

ness solutions to our problems."

He indicated many of the changes to be put in place are based on the results of extensive bench marking of the sugar industry, both in Florida and around the world. As part of the change, the company will be reorganized around func-

tional lines. Dolson said, "We will have two business units, sugar and citrus. Operations will be organized accordingly, with functions supporting both business units, such as finance, remaining separate." Further, he indicated decision-making will be decentralized and

pushed down to the farm level, said Dolson, copying the model of the family farm that has been so successful in the American system.

Dolson and his wife will establish a residence in Clewiston, where U.S. Sugar has been headquartered since 1931.

## Bible Club

Non-Perishable Ministries is hosting a "Kids N The Park" Summer Bible Club through July 31 in South Bay in the Community Center Building. The event will be from 10 a.m. until noon each day and is open to children ages 5 to 12.

The Summer Bible Club is free and open to the community.

For more information, call Pam Combs at 561-336-2397.

**Belle Glade Family Medicine**  
371 S. Main Street, Belle Glade, FL 33409  
Tel: (561) 993-9111 Fax: (561) 993-5500

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Saturday,  
9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

## Non-profit and profit groups to host the Gigantic Garage Sale

Got some attic treasures you'd like to sell? The 10th annual Gigantic Garage Sale is the place to do it and help charity at the same time.

The South Florida Fairgrounds and the United Way of Palm Beach County are teaming to produce the biggest garage sale ever on Saturday, August 25 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fundraiser will be held in

the air-conditioned Fairgrounds Expo Center at the South Florida Fair and also in the surrounding exposition buildings. A limited number of booths are available for non-profit organizations and the general public.

The cost for non-profits is only \$45 for a 10x20 booth, or they can save \$10 and get a 20x20 for \$60. For profit, 10x10

booths are \$40.

Vendors can collect their merchandise, transport it to the fairgrounds, staff their booth and collect 100% of the proceeds. All sales will be retained by that organization. Booth and admission fees will be used to establish a scholarship fund to be presented at the 2001 South Florida Fair in January.

Admission to the Gigantic Garage Sale is \$2 or \$1 with two cans of food.

Thousands of bargain hunters

are expected to attend and pick through sale items from over 40 organizations and individuals. Sponsors of this year's Gigantic Garage Sale include WPEC News 12, the Palm Beach Post, Florida Power & Light Company, Solid Waste Authority, WIRK 107.9 and Sunray 104.3.

For additional information, call the South Florida Fairgrounds at (561) 790-5239 or email to [thetfa@southfloridafair.com](mailto:thetfa@southfloridafair.com).

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The end of July is the last chance to be counted in the U.S. Census. If you have not been counted, call 1-800-465-3013.

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# OPINION PAGE

Feel strongly about local issues?



## The Sun

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(561) 996-6636

Speak Out is our 24-hour opinion line.  
Call 996-6636 to express your opinion or ask questions about public issues.  
You are not required to give your name. While we want you to speak out freely, the newspaper reserves the right to edit calls for clarity, brevity, relevance and fairness.

### City raises

"I read in *The Sun* where the City of Belle Glade is giving the employees \$50 for each year they have been working for the city.

I do not feel this is right, because I do not think any of the employees went beyond their duties. There is trash on the roads, garbage cans turned over, there are lights that need to be fixed. Also, the red light on SR 715 by Rinkens Construction, that light doesn't even work right.

I think they should have consulted the citizens, for that money could have been used for something else. When I ride through the streets of Belle Glade, I can hardly ride through for all the children on the streets. We could have taken that money and paid somebody to go to the park and supervise the children, play games, play ball.

And another thing, I feel like the money they paid these employees could have been used to give citizens a break on their water bills. But the city always wants to give away money.

We worry about things for our children to do. The Belle Glade teen pregnancy rate is high. We should have done something more useful with this money."

### Car wash

"Pahokee should have the cleanest cars in

the world. It seems like every weekend some organization is having a car wash at the Pahokee Fire Department.

People get tired of people jumping out in front of them with signs saying 'car wash.' I'm a charitable person but, you know, enough is enough. Someone needs to put a stop to this.

Thank you."

### More on water bills

"Yeah. Some of us in Belle Glade want to know about this rip-off water bill. If you go for a vacation, your water bill runs the same. If you don't use water, your water bill runs the same.

My water bill has been running \$78.00 for 10 months and I know it's impossible to use the same amount of water all the time. I leave at 5 a.m. and return that evening at 5 p.m. My wife washes clothes just once, or twice a week. There's nobody but me and her and we still pay the same.

I was reading the paper the other day and another man and his wife owed \$84.00 for five months in a row. You all know this is impossible.

You are going to have to put some responsible people in there who are going to read the water meters. The meters are not being read. They are estimating, not reading.

Thank you."

Submitted anonymously

## Letters to the Editor

### Watch what your children are reading

**Editor's note:** We usually do not run letters that are not local, but we found this opinion interesting and wonder if any local pastors or lay people also find the Harry Potter books offensive or if you have another viewpoint. We would be glad to hear from you.

#### Dear Editor:

What a shame and disgrace that children's children must learn how to enjoy reading from books as deadly as the Harry Potter books. The Bible calls this kind of publication witchcraft, divination, and familiar spirits and is according to Deuteronomy 18:10-14 an abomination to God.

The boy in these books is a sorcerer, the same kind of demon as the Apostle Paul cast out of a woman in Acts 16:16.

My dictionary says the word abomination means our God finds it disgusting and he hates it. In my own vocabulary, it means it stinks in

God's nostrils, and he will turn his eyes, his love, and his grace away from anyone involved in it.

Many people are saying guns, gangs, school shootings and terrorism are going to bring down America. I say it is the witchcraft and satanic games, toys, books, television, movies and computer games our children are feasting on that is the gateway to our children's minds being destroyed.

Any parent, grandparent, teacher, or school principal involved in reading these books to little children fall under this abomination curse. In Acts 19:19, there were people who owned this type of books and they brought them all together and burned them before men, and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. Instead of having a town meeting, let's have a town burning.

Dimple McInville  
Georgiana, Alabama

## The Sun

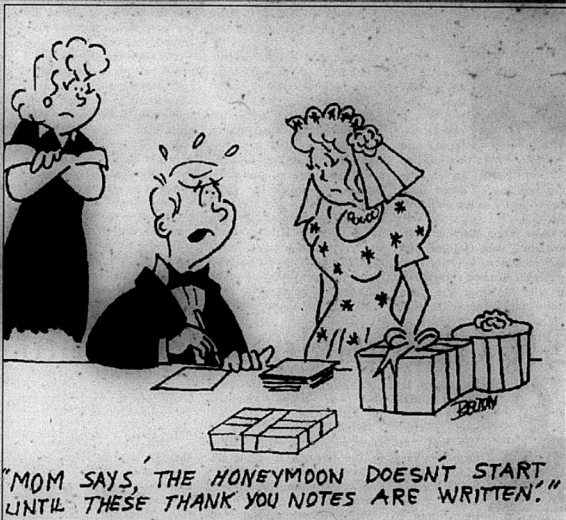
### A PLEDGE TO OUR READERS

- ✓ To operate this newspaper as a public trust.
- ✓ To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- ✓ To provide the information citizens need to make their own decisions about public issues.
- ✓ To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- ✓ To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- ✓ To correct our errors, and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- ✓ To provide a right to reply to those about whom we write.
- ✓ To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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## Florida Farm Bureau says EPA plays politics with water rule

By Larry Ewing  
Director of Public Relations  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation

Politics, not concern for the environment, was the motivation for Carol M. Browner, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, as she implemented the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule regarding the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program.

"This is a classic example of an appointed official circumventing the wishes of the duly elected members of congress," said Carl B. Loop, Jr., Florida Farm Bureau Federation president. "On June 30, congress passed, as part of the supplemental spending bill, a measure to prevent EPA from implementing the rule. This program could cost billions while doing little to keep water clean."

A survey of Midwest states by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management found the average cost just to write a TMDL plan was \$100,000 each. That did not count the cost to actually put practices on the ground to

implement the TMDL. While EPA estimates the total cost of implementing the rules at \$100 million, the Indiana department's survey reveals the cost for rule development alone would be \$200 billion - 20 times higher than the total EPA figure.

"We're disappointed that the Clinton Administration has decided to implement, despite the clear message from Congress opposing it, the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule regarding the Total Maximum Daily Load program. The EPA plan would cripple farms, ranches and forestry operations at a time when producers can least afford new regulations.

"Farmers and ranchers have made progress in improving water quality through voluntary, incentive-based programs. This progress would be halted by EPA's unworkable proposal, a plan that runs counter to many successful local initiatives," Loop said. "It will, in fact, result in much litigation and further delays in improving water quality."

## To combat poaching in Florida, UF officials use wildlife forensics

By Aaron Hoover  
University of Florida News

State game officials are bagging poachers who might one day have escaped their reach, thanks to DNA analysis performed at a University of Florida laboratory.

More commonly used to catch murderers and rapists, the lab's forensic DNA techniques have proved so successful in nabbing deer poachers that officials have recently turned to it for help in cases involving wild turkeys, turtles, alligators and other hunted species in Florida. Since undertaking the work about three years ago, the lab has helped crack about 30 poaching cases statewide, a number they say will grow steadily as the lab branches out into more and more species and types of cases.

"I wish I had it 20 years ago," said Capt. Barry Cook of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission office in Gainesville. "The labs would be a lot fuller."

DNA analysis to find poachers is just one role of the Biotechnology for Ecological, Environmental and Conservation Sciences Genetics Analysis Laboratory, part of UF's Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research. The lab's main function is to provide genetics expertise to biologists in the field.

But the lab became involved in poaching cases after game officials enlisted it in 1998 to determine if meat came from Florida's native white-tailed deer or another species.

Ginger Clark, a UF senior biological scientist at the lab, developed a technique that could not only determine the species of deer based on tissue samples or blood, but also the deer's gender. The technique can identify any hoofed species, from cows to horses to antelopes, from most countries in the world.

The work quickly became useful in poaching cases.

Unlike the lengthy buck season, deer season on Florida's public lands lasts only two days. In several instances, game officers have sent the lab samples of fresh venison confiscated from hunters on suspicion it came from does killed out of season. Officers also have given the lab clothing stained with blood they suspected was from illegally killed does.

The lab usually confirmed the officer's suspicions, resulting in successful prosecutions of the poachers, although the evidence isn't always in

the officers' favor.

"There have been times that we have said, 'this male white tail, so for this sample you don't have a case,'" said Daniel Brazeau, lab director. "So it cuts both ways."

Using techniques similar to the deer technique, the lab has increased its scope recently. Newer cases include at least one that involved suspected poaching of wild turkey hens (only gobblers can be hunted in Florida.) Clark determined the meat came from female turkeys, strengthening the case against the suspected poacher. Other cases have involved alligator, snapping turtle meat and Florida black bear meat. In yet another example, a Florida seafood dealer, suspicious that large purchases of white fish fillets contained an illegal fish species, approached the researchers for help. They confirmed some fillets were indeed illegal.

The lab also determined that eggs being sold as freshwater turtle eggs in fact came from endangered sea turtles. Because sea turtles return to beaches where they hatched, the researchers can even tell where the eggs were collected, Brazeau said. "This technology has a lot of power, which is why human DNA forensics is so significant," he said.

The DNA forensics process involves a molecular biology technique called PCR, or Polymerase chain reaction.

The technique allows researchers to make millions of copies of DNA from a tiny sample—a pencil eraser-sized piece of flesh or drop of blood usually is enough—then sequence the DNA to establish its precise genetic code. This code then can be compared against samples from known animal species to confirm or rule out a match. The samples are available from gene sequence banks on the Internet and other resources. Much of the sea turtle gene sequences, for example, were collected by UF zoology researchers.

All of the lab's 30 cases have been resolved in settlements in favor of the prosecution, with none going to trial, Clark said.

Several of those accused of poaching have confessed when confronted with DNA evidence, Cook said.

"This type of evidence is just that cut and dried," Cook said, adding that, as a result of the lab's work, all game officers in the state are now equipped with sampling kits to obtain DNA evidence during investigations.

Open registration to fill remaining slots after the renewal period will take place at the Teen Club from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the following places:  
Monday, Aug. 7 in South Bay

Submitting news to *The Sun* newspaper can be done in several ways. Readers can mail or bring their information to 417 N.W. 16th Street, Suite 5, Belle Glade, fax the information to (561) 996-2209, email their news to [Sunnews@flite.net](mailto:Sunnews@flite.net) or contact Shirley (Vereen) Morris

All seventh graders will need to have a physical. If they were in 5th grade during the 1998-1999 school year and had a physical on or after August 19, 1998, it will be accepted for the 2000-2001 school year. Seventh grade students will also need to have started their Hepatitis B Series and have had a Tetanus Booster.

drop, it is a pretty good bet that a storm is either on the way or already here. On the other hand, if the barometer reads 30.20" and rising, chances are

"Most of my barometers are early American or British barometers," Bob said. "The British barometers tend to be a bit more ornate than the

Of course, if you ever need help selling your barometer just call Bob.  
(Mike Lyons is the chief weather forecaster for WPBF-TV)

If you know the whereabouts of **Alfonso Bennifield**, or anyone involved in a serious crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-458-8477. You can remain anonymous and still receive a cash reward if your tip leads to an arrest.

July 20 - Raymond Vickers, 37, warrant

grand theft; **Juvenile**, 10, Belle Glade, grand theft.

July 20 - Raymond Vickers, 37, warrant

grand theft, Juvenile, 10, Belle Glade, grand theft.

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Monday-Thursday, 10:00AM-8:00PM • Friday & Saturday, 10:00AM-6:00PM







A group of five-to-seven-year-old ESE and ESOL students enrolled in the Boys and Girls Club Summer Camp at Gladeview Elementary performed musical numbers and a skit, "The Four Little Pig Sisters," for their peers July 14. Following the program, students were required to describe what they liked best about the program, in writing, to practice skills for the Florida Writes test. (Photo by Tracy Whirlie)

## Scholarship program for disabled students offered

The Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities is an extension of a school choice program created by the Legislature in the 1999 session. This program will provide scholarships to a public or private school of choice for students with disabilities whose parents submit written evidence that their child has not met expected levels of performance in at least two areas for the previous year or evidence that the student is not progressing adequately toward the goals in the Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Consistent with Section 229.05871, Florida Statutes,

the following requirements must be met to be eligible for a scholarship:

- The student's academic progress in at least two areas has not met expected levels for the previous year as determined by the student's IEP. For the previous school year, the parent has documented the student's failure to meet the specific performance levels identified in the IEP in at least two areas, or
- Absent specific performance levels identified on the IEP, the student performed below grade level on state or local assessments and the parent believes that the student is not progressing adequately

toward his/her IEP goals, and

- The parent has notified the Department of Education and the school district of their child's acceptance to a participating private school no later than Aug. 15.

- The parent has requested a scholarship before the district's cap has been reached.

Students assigned to an Alternative Education site or that are currently in a court ordered program are not eligible to participate.

To help determine if a student is eligible, please call (661) 357-7500 for information available in English, Spanish and Creole.

## Lake Okeechobee water supply and environmental regulation schedule approved

The South Atlantic Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has approved implementation of the operational schedule, Water Supply and Environment (WSE), for Lake Okeechobee. The effective date for implementation was July 7.

Over the past several months, the South Florida Water Management District has implemented a recession management plan under its water supply allocation authority. "The recession management plan is consistent with the primary goal of WSE, that of optimizing the health of Lake Okeechobee," said Col. Joe R. Miller, head of the Corps' Jacksonville District. The WSE regulation schedule incorporates increased

operational flexibility in the intermediate zones and permits excess water to be discharged from the lake at lower water levels when large inflows are expected. Water operations are based on current and projected hydrologic conditions.

"Another key feature of the WSE schedule is the lower operational zone, labeled Zone D," Miller said. "This zone allows the operational flexibility to deliver water to the Everglades, including the Water Conservation Areas, at lower lake levels, which minimizes adverse impacts to the lake littoral zone."

The WSE schedule also allows more water to be kept in the regional hydrologic system for water supply and

hydroperiod restoration just prior to and during a recognized shift toward drier climate conditions. The Corps will host quarterly advisory meetings which will be attended by federal and state resource agencies. The purpose of these meetings is to obtain feedback on the operation of Lake Okeechobee under WSE.

The first quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 27, 2000. The scope of these meetings will be coordinated with the South Florida Water Management District. The WSE operation schedule can be viewed at a special

web site: <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/h20/lib/documents/WSEindex.html>.

## City of Pahokee to hold first budget workshop Aug. 1

Fire Dept./from Page 1

is also responsible for maintaining equipment as well as testing fire hydrants, and firefighters are required to continuously increase their training to maintain their state certification. The department also operates a successful Explorer program, which provides limited on-the-job training to students interested in pursuing a career as a firefighter, which has received praise from teachers and parents familiar with the program.

Mayor Roy L. Singletary noted the city is getting ready to begin its annual budget workshops. "I can tell you it's going to be a very tight budget. We're going to have to go over that budget very carefully because it's out of sync," the mayor said. Currently, the budget is between \$235,000-\$240,000 over expected revenue, the mayor said, adding that some items may have to be cut to balance the budget.

Mayor Singletary said many of the city's department's pay scales are out of sync, but the city's total tax base is only \$60 million. "One hotel in West Palm Beach is worth as much as the whole City of Pahokee. We'd like to see every employee get a raise," the mayor said.

The lieutenant told commissioners the department isn't expecting an answer immediately only that they be treated fairly. Commissioner Keith Babb said while he agrees the firefighters deserve a raise, the Pahokee Department cannot be properly compared with Belle Glade or other cities which are three times as large.

Commissioner Henry Crawford promised the commissioners would consider the salary request during the budget hearings. "We want to keep as many employees as we can, especially experienced employees. We don't want to lose

them to other cities," he said.

In a related matter, the commissioners tentatively set the city's millage rate at nine percent. The current draft budget has a cap of 7.1775 mills, making the rollback rate 6.9062 percent, which would allow the city to collect the same amount of taxes as last year.

Mayor Singletary said the proposed budget increase would amount to a 3.93 percent increase in taxes, although individual property owners whose property's value has not increased, would not pay an additional tax. The budget increase would be the result of a projected \$2 million increase in taxable property value.

The commissioners will hold their first budget workshop Tuesday, Aug. 1 at 6 p.m. in the commission chambers in city hall. The commissioners' first formal budget hearing is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 11 at 6 p.m.

## Reach Out and Read program expands

In cooperation with the Literacy Coalition, the Palm Beach County Health Department is expanding the Reach Out and Read program to five of its clinics.

Reach Out and Read began as a pilot project one year ago in the Delray Beach Clinic. The pediatric staff, during well child visits, talks with parents about their reading habits and pediatricians encourage reading by issuing a prescription to read twenty minutes per day. A volunteer reads to children in waiting rooms and before leaving the pediatrician gives them a book for their personal library.

Judy Kouba, volunteer coordinator for the Delray Beach Clinic commented, "This is a wonderful way for children to find out what fascinating things books can offer." Ms. Kouba added that by the time a child starts kindergarten they would have a personal library of at least 10 books from the program.

Throughout the next month, Palm Beach County's Health Clinics will be adding the Reach Out and Read Program in Belle Glade, Riviera Beach and West Palm Beach, bringing the total to five. Delray Beach and Lantana/Lake Worth have already begun.

## Fumigant loss will place farmers at disadvantage

Unless Congress delays the ban of an effective crop protection product until effective and economical replacements are found, U.S. farmers will be at a competitive disadvantage domestically and internationally, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation. Carl P. Loop, Jr., a Jacksonville, Fla. nurseryman and president of the Florida Farm Bureau Federation told members of a House Agriculture subcommittee July 12 that methyl bromide is "without a doubt, one of the most effective crop protection tools ever devised."

But after research showed methyl bromide contributing to the depletion of the Earth's ozone layer, a United Nations treaty established phaseout dates for developed and developing nations. The United States is required to phase out the use of methyl bromide by 2005. Despite claims by the Environmental Protection Agency that viable alternatives exist, technologies that look promising in the lab haven't always transferred well when brought into the real world, Mr. Loop said. Temperature fluctuations, unusual rainfall, wind and other weather conditions affect the performance of alternatives. With no single substitute available, U.S. farmers will be required to use an "array of alternative control measures" including combinations.

Other Reach Out and Read sites supported by the Literacy Coalition, according to Program Coordinator Courtney Vallotton are the Ceridac Clinic, Mission Medical Center in Delray Beach and 45th Street Pediatrics in West Palm Beach.

Persons interested in volunteering to read can contact the Literacy Coalition at 1-800-273-1030 or the Palm Beach County Health Department at (561) 855-8013.

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**Evening Session 6 - 7:30 p.m. Room CE 119**

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# news worth trends

## Should Your Business Get Into E-Business?

NAFSA—The Internet has become like penicillin. Now that consumers and businesses know about the e-business, they think they can use it to the advantage for everything, as if were some kind of wonder drug.

It is true that starting an online operation can offer small businesses access to new markets and customers. However, going online can also present a company with a number of challenges—and headaches—if they fail to think the process through.

Here are a few of the e-business experts at Sprint think you should consider, if you think your business should be doing business online.

**Start with selecting the right computer with the right features.** Getting online—whether for marketing or to actually do business transactions over the Internet—starts with getting the right computer.

A small business should be guided by its needs when deciding which features its computer should have. Will the computer be used for word processing of generating bills? Will it be used to connect you to the Internet? These kinds of questions should help to streamline the computer selection process.

**Stay with a well known, well-reviewed brand name.** The name brands tend to offer more reliability than a small network.

**Think about making a network work for your business.** Just because your small business doesn't have branch offices or mobile units doesn't mean you can't build a network.

While the term network has come to mean computers talking to computers, a network can also help a small business integrate all of its business processes.

**Selecting the right computer is the first step in turning your small business into an e-business.** of its voice and data communication needs.

For example, Sprint ION is a network approach that integrates voice, video and data in a way that allows bandwidth to grow to meet the needs of the company. Bandwidth is a term used to describe the amount of information or traffic a system can handle.

Sprint ION also integrates high speed Internet access and local and long distance calling on one bill, from one provider.

**How should a small business select a service provider?**

As the communications industry moves away from having different providers for different services, small businesses should be asking if their service provider can grow as the business grows.

Does the provider make one-stop shopping possible? Can they scale the system, adding new components, products and additional capabilities as the business grows?

To learn more about turning your small business into an e-business or for more information of Sprint's communications products and services, please call 1-800-PIN-DROP or visit the Web site at [www.sprintbiz.com](http://www.sprintbiz.com)




**Before being elected president, Woodrow Wilson taught history. After the election, he made history.**

**President Ulysses S. Grant was arrested while in office for speeding with his horse and fined \$20.**



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